



Before sending your indoor vegetables outside on a full-time basis, it's a good idea to send them out for a few hours a day and bring them inside at night. By exposing plants you've grown indoors gradually to a new environment, you will increase the chances of their survival outdoors. About two weeks before you're ready to put the plants in the ground, lengthen their time outdoors to give plants more sunlight and experience lower temperatures.

Find the answers to growing questions

Continued from Page 3

the prepared soil below.

I toured my yard and was dismayed to find that several young trees were split open on the southwest side. Is there anything I can do to help them heal those cracks or to prevent more damage?

What you describe is known as "frost crack" (though it has nothing to do with frost) or "southwest disease" because it most often occurs on the southwest side of the tree. It occurs when bright, sunny winter days are followed by clear, cold nights.

During the day, the tree's tissues warm up and expand. When the sun goes down and the temperature begins to drop, the outer tissues contract faster than the inner tissues. The result is a crack in the outer layers.

When frost cracking occurs in a large tree, a tree surgeon can use threaded metal rods to pull the sides together the same way a physician uses stitches to close a wound. The damage usually isn't serious enough to warrant this treatment, however.

There's not a lot you can do for smaller trees except to keep them healthy by watering, pruning and fertilizing them and to protect them against further cracking next winter. To do this,

shade the tree on the south and west sides or wrap the trunk with tree wrap to keep the tissues from heating up. This prevents further cracking or reopening of the old wound and so gives the tree a chance to heal itself.

Some tree species are more susceptible to frost crack than others. Young, thin-barked lindens, beeches and sycamores, especially those planted in exposed rather than sheltered locations, are likely to develop this problem.

What type of strawberry planting system gives the best yields?

The matted-row system — which involves planting strawberry plants 18 to 28 inches apart in rows three to four feet apart and allowing runners to fill in the rows to a width of 12 to 15 inches — generally gives the highest yield per planted area. The highest quality berries, and the highest yield per plant, are usually achieved with the hill system. In this planting system, plants are spaced about eight inches apart with three feet between the rows, and all runners are removed. The hill system, however, requires much more labor. Runners must be removed every five to seven days for at least two months. With the matted row, no thinning is necessary. The hill system is productive for fewer years and costs more to plant than the matted-row system.



CHILDREN'S WOODEN SWING & GYM SET

UP TO \$100 CASH REBATE
for all orders received by May 15th

BASKETBALL BACKBOARDS & POLES installed from **\$99.80**

A mini-tennis court*
that fits your yard (and budget)

Designed for multi-sport use

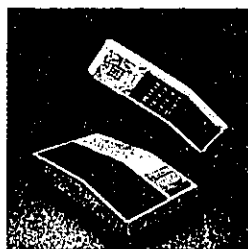
• Tennis Practice
• Paddle Tennis
• Rec Ball
• Basketball
• Volleyball
• Badminton
• Pickleball
• and many more

TENNIS COURTS
Resurfaced, Repaired or Recolored

B.S.I. INTERNATIONAL INC.

1173 Chicago Rd. • 585-3040
Call for hours & FREE brochures.

THE BEST OF SUMMER...



Don't Miss A Minute Of It!

A UNIDEN 4000 CORDLESS PHONE

...gives you freedom to move throughout your home, around the yard or down the street...up to 700 feet without the restriction of a phone cord. Also gives you: Base Speaker Phone, Handset Intercom and 2-Way Paging...**\$139**

OTHER CORDLESS PHONES FROM \$79.95

Suburban

Home Center

11 Mile at Evergreen
Lathrup Landing • 559-0860



All Cement & Masonry



MASONRY

- Drives
- Porches
- Walks
- Floors
- Footings
- Steps
- Garage Floors
- Chimneys
- Waterproofing
- All Repairs
- Residential
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Small or Large

DEAL WITH THE OWNER THAT DOES HIS OWN WORK

LICENSED
BONDED & INSURED
313-348-0066

E. Morgan Humecky
Contracting, Inc.

FAST, EFFICIENT SERVICE
FREE ESTIMATE
532-1302



Take Care of Your Trees...

... healthy, attractive trees add value and beauty to your home. But trees are living things, and like us, are at their best when someone cares.

For the finest in complete, professional tree care, call

Owen and James Porterfield

at AAA Tree Service

ESTABLISHED 1947

- DIAGNOSIS
- PRUNING • REPAIR
- DISEASE AND INSECT CONTROL
- CABLING AND BRACING
- REMOVAL

Western Suburbs **459-9555**
Northern Suburbs **353-6393**
Dearborn/Detroit **562-5225**

• INSURED • FREE ESTIMATES • LICENSED